




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Advance Queensland, Ignite Ideas Grants

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.27 pm): I have been very keen to make this statement today in light of the member for Everton's comments this morning. For a man who is the alleged shadow Treasurer, I am startled that his business experience does not extend very far.

Last week I was pleased to visit the Ulysses Veterinary Clinic in Cairns. A local vet by the name of Dr Charlotte Williamson has designed a weight loss app for dogs and their owners which she anticipates will be on the market by the end of this year. The Palaszczuk government is proud to support this Cairns based company with \$100,000—the money comes out of the Queensland Ignite Ideas grant—to commercialise the rollout of the Wagsa app around Australia and the world. This will help create 20 jobs. There is actually economic activity associated with this. It is quite remarkable.

The Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas fund has already supported 271 Queensland businesses through \$44.65 million in four rounds of Ignite Ideas, driving more than 1,000 new jobs. The inability of the member for Everton to grasp the fundamentals is enormously concerning. The grants are designed to support start-ups to small and medium sized Queensland businesses to test and implement commercialisation plans for an innovative product, process or service that is market ready or in a local market and ready to scale into new markets. This is groundbreaking. For a vet in Cairns to come up with this idea and then be criticised for it reminds me of the term you often hear: we are swamped with information but starved of intelligence—well, some of us in the chamber. There are plenty of dogs around Cairns, Queensland, Australia and the world who need some help to get fit and healthy.

There are about two million overweight dogs in Australia and 49 million overweight dogs around the world. I know that it will come as a bit of a surprise, but this app will be available to the world and people will use it. It will generate money, and that generates jobs. I know that is a bit hard for some to grasp. The weight plans work by providing owners with an individualised calorie, portion or activity plan for their dog. Owners may choose to feed their pets commercial food or use low-calorie dogfood recipes provided by Wagstar. This generates commercial activity and jobs. I am absolutely startled.

Mr Harper: The member for Everton is barking mad.

Mr HEALY: I take that interjection. I was certainly very impressed with Wagstar and Dr Williamson. I will be following her undoubted success with the great interest it deserves. Anybody else who has a fantastic idea should not hesitate to go to the Queensland government Advance Queensland website. We will support your business.